

Message Text

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ACTION EB-03

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3091

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 4565

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SW

SUBJECT: INTEGRATED ENERGY PROGRAM (IEP) AND SWEDEN

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 4539; (B) STOCKHOLM 4091

1. SUMMARY. GOS HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO JOIN IEP. OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, HAVE STEPPED UP EFFORTS TO ARRIVE AT A DECISION. FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS SUMMARIZE SWEDISH POSITION PROVIDED EMBASSY BY HANS EWERLOF OF MFA WHO RECENTLY MET WITH SWISS AND AUSTRIAN REPRESENTATIVES AND WHO WILL BE ATTENDING DAVIGNON MEETING IN BRUSSELS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 14 (MONDAY). END SUMMARY.

2. OVER LAST WEEKEND, MINISTER OF FINANCE GUNNAR STRANG WAS QUOTED IN THE PRESS AS SAYING SWEDEN WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO JOIN IEP BECAUSE OF SWEDISH POSITION OF NEUTRALITY. THE ALLEGED STATEMENT, ACCORDING TO EWERLOF, WAS A "MISQUOTATION" OR IF QUOTED CORRECTLY, THE MINISTER DID
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NOT SPEAK FOR THE GOVERNMENT. EWERLOF SAID GOS HAD MADE NO DECISION, THAT THERE WERE STILL POINTS OF "UNCLARITY"

WHICH MUST BE LOOKED INTO, AND THAT ON TIMING OF DECISION HE HOPED IT MIGHT BE REACHED BEFORE OCTOBER 29 WHEN ECG PARTICIPANTS WILL MEET. HE ASKED WHETHER USG WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IF SWEDEN WERE TO JOIN SOMETIME IN NOVEMBER, NOTING AT THE SAME TIME THAT SWEDEN WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE EARLIER IF IT IS TO BE ONE OF ORIGINAL IEP MEMBERS. ECON/COMM COUNSELOR SAID OUR BASIC POSITION IS TO WELCOME PARTICIPATION BY NON-ECG MEMBERS, PROVIDED THEY ACCEPT FULL RESPONSIBILITIES CALLED FOR UNDER IEP. HE ADDED THAT EMBASSY HAD NO GUIDANCE ON QUESTION OF HOW OR WHEN PARTICIPATION MIGHT TAKE PLACE, IF NOT AT TIME IEP IS ESTABLISHED.

3. EWERLOF SAID POINTS OF UNCLARITY WHICH GOS WAS STILL LOOKING INTO WERE: (A) TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF PROGRAM AND HOW IT WOULD WORK; (B) RULES AND CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION BY OIL COMPANIES; (C) PROVISIONS FOR LONG-TERM COOPERATION IN ENERGY MATTERS; AND (C) PARTICIPATION DECISION OF FRANCE, NORWAY, UNITED KINGDOM, AND NEUTRAL COUNTRIES (PARTICULARLY AUSTRIA SINCE SWEISS APPEARED TO HAVE MOVED FURTHER AHEAD, HAVING DISCUSSED IEP IN THE PARLIAMENT). WITHIN GOS, HE SAID, THERE WERE DIFFERENT VIEWS AND GAVE AS EXAMPLES THE ALLEGED STATEMENT OF MINISTER STRANG AND THE SOMEWHAT MORE POSITIVE POSITION REPORTEDLY TAKEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER DURING HIS VISIT TO NORWAY. EWERLOF INDICATED THAT SOME OF THE DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS IN THE GOVERNMENT WERE DUE TO LACK OF INFORMATION OR FAMILIARITY WITH SUBJECT.

4. EWERLOF SAID GOS WAS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH NORDIC COUNTRIES AND PARTICULARLY WITH NORWAY; ALSO, HE HAD JUST MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF AUSTRIA AND SWITZERLAND AT THE ZURICH AIRPORT ON OCTOBER 8. NO DECISION WAS REACHED AT THE LATTER MEETING BUT GOS, HE SAID, WOULD HOPE THAT IF A POSITIVE DECISION IS REACHED THE THREE NEUTRAL COUNTRIES COULD JOIN AT THE SAME TIME AND THUS MINIMIZE POTENTIAL QUESTIONS INTERNALLY REGARDING CONSISTENCY OF NEUTRALITY AND IEP. EWERLOF SAID GOS SAW NO LEGAL PROBLEM IN JOINING IEP AND THE MAIN DECISION WAS WHETHER TO JOIN OR NOT AND, IF THERE IS A PROBLEM OF PROTECTING SWEDISH CONFIDENTIAL
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NEUTRALITY, SWEDEN WILL HAVE TO ASK FOR RESERVATIONS IN SOME FORM.

5. ON DAVIGNON MEETING SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 14, EWERLOF SAID IT IS TO BE INFORMAL AND ALL INTERESTED THIRD PARTIES WOULD BE INVITED. HE THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE THAT SOME ECG MEMBER COUNTRIES MIGHT ALSO ATTEND. GOS FOR ITS PART WAS ATTENDING TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION OF SPECIFIC POINTS (SEE PARA 3 ABOVE).

6. SWEDES APPEAR TO BE MOVING IN DIRECTION OF EVENTUAL PARTICIPATION IN IEP. NORWEGIAN AND AUSTRIAN DECISION, HOWEVER, COULD INFLUENCE EVENTUAL SWEDISH DECISION.
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